

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled, and claim 5 has been amended. Support for the amendment of claim 5 is provided for example in Figs. 1-3. The cancellation of claims 1-4 obviates the objections and rejections applied thereto. Amended claim 5 has been drafted to overcome the objections applied thereto.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Kato (US 2002/0067687). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse based on the points set forth below.

Claim 5 now defines a disk apparatus having a slider mechanism that is disposed on one end of a traverse in a horizontal direction with respect to a disk inserting opening. The slider mechanism has a vertically moving cam mechanism that moves one end of the traverse toward and away from the disk apparatus' base body and a slider cam mechanism that moves the traverse in the inserting and discharging directions of the disk. The claimed subject matter provides an advantage of reducing the thickness and size of the disk apparatus (see specification page 1, last paragraph). (References herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

As illustrated in Figs. 1-3 for an exemplary, non-limiting, embodiment of the claimed subject matter, a slider mechanism 50 is formed at one end of traverse 30. Slider mechanism 50

has both a vertically moving cam mechanism 52 that vertically moves traverse 30 and a slider cam mechanism 51 that causes traverse 30 to slide.

The Office Action proposes that Kato's pressing driving member 53 corresponds to the Applicants' claimed slider mechanism that is disposed on one end of a traverse in a horizontal direction with respect to a disk inserting opening (see Office Action section 8, lines 10-12).

However, it is submitted that, in fact, Kato discloses cam mechanisms (i.e., pressing driving members 53), for sliding a traverse (i.e., driving unit 25), with these cam mechanisms being disposed on both ends of driving unit 25 (see Kato Figs. 1A and 1B in which pegs 51 for traveling in slots of slider mechanisms 53 exist on both ends of driving unit 25). More specifically, each of Kato's pressing driving members 53 is disposed in a direction perpendicular to a disk inserting opening, on opposite ends of driving unit 25 (i.e., the traverse), and Kato's chucking mechanism (i.e., driving plate 47) for moving driving unit 25 (i.e., the traverse) vertically is formed by another cam mechanism. Thus, Kato does not disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter of a disk apparatus having a slider mechanism, comprising a slider cam mechanism and a vertically moving cam mechanism, that is disposed on one end of a traverse in a horizontal direction with respect to a disk inserting opening.

The Applicants' claimed slider mechanism, which both moves a traverse vertically and slides the traverse, is constituted by a unitary mechanism disposed at only one end of the traverse. Kato's mechanism for sliding a traverse is formed at both ends of the traverse, and Kato's mechanism for moving the traverse vertically is formed by another mechanism.

Thus, the Applicants' claimed subject matter provides an advantage of reducing the number of mechanisms for sliding and vertically moving a traverse and reducing the size of a disk apparatus.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Kato does not identically disclose the claimed subject matter of claim 5 and, thus, does not anticipate this subject matter. Therefore, allowance of claim 5 and dependent claim 6 is deemed to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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JEL/DWW/att

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